

**MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006  
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present: Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair  
Rep. Gordon E. Snow, Co-Chair  
Sen. Beverly Evans  
Sen. Karen Hale  
Rep. J. Stuart Adams  
Rep. Ron Bigelow  
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove  
Rep. James A. Ferrin  
Rep. Julie Fisher  
Rep. Karen W. Morgan  
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Excused: Pres. John Valentine

Members Absent: Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux  
Rep. LaVar Christensen  
Rep. Greg Hughes

Staff Present: R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Jan Ferre', Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities  
Karyn Storey, PTA  
Ellen Stantus, Special Education Director, Davis School District  
Karl Wilson, Special Education Director, USOE  
Pamela Atkinson, Community Advocate and Special Advisor to  
Governor Huntsman  
Dennis Morgan, District Library Supervisor, Public Schools  
Marilyn Kofford, Education Commissioner, Utah PTA  
Sharyl Smith, Former Library Supervisor for Granite School District  
Paula Plant, USOE School Trustlands Specialist  
Dr. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE  
Robin McClinton, Advocate for Adult Education  
Marty Blair, Assistant Director for Policy, USU  
Marilyn Nuntz, ESL Director, Asian Association of Utah Services for  
Refugees  
Sheila Walsh McDonald, Salt Lake Community Action Program

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Committee Co-Chair Snow called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes - The minutes were not approved because attendance at this time in the meeting did not constitute a quorum.
2. Public Comment - Jan Ferre', Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, spoke in support of Special Education. Karyn Storey is a mother of a child with special needs, and she also spoke in favor of Special Education. Ellen Stantus, Special Education Director in Davis School District, stated that school districts are seeing an increasing influx of students into the school system with very complex medical and mental health issues. These students have need of a combination of services, and it is increasingly expensive to accommodate these needs. Ms. Stantus asked for assistance in meeting the needs of these high-cost-low-incidence students. Karl Wilson, Special Education Director USOE, addressed the Committee in support of Special Education. A handout was provided to the Committee that gives the historical perspective of funding for high-cost services for students with disabilities. The Utah State Office of Education is requesting a building block to address the shortfall in the impact aid for high-cost low-incidence special education students. USOE is requesting an allocation to the Minimum School Fund for high-cost-low-incidence impact aid from the Utah State Legislature in the amount of \$1,143,789.

Pamela Atkinson, Community Advocate and Special Advisor to Governor Huntsman, spoke in support of Adult Education. Ms. Atkinson stated that a group called the Minimum Wage Working Group has been meeting for the last seven months to determine if the minimum wage should be raised. This group has made four recommendations. The first recommendation is for the State of Utah to commission a series of studies to determine the characteristics of minimum wage earners, to look at the list of companies that employ minimum wage earners who are applying for public assistance, and to look at the self-sufficiency calculation. The fourth recommendation is for the Legislature to restore \$1 million in ongoing funding to Adult Education.

3. Committee Member Requests - Rep. Cosgrove spoke in support of funding for School Libraries. Rep. Cosgrove stated that libraries are the heart of our schools and support every program in the school--math, science, English, health, art--the entire curriculum. Rep. Cosgrove asked for an appropriation request of \$4 million. One million dollars of this appropriation would be divided among every public school and charter schools throughout the State. The additional \$3 million would be allocated on a per-population basis. This would give approximately 166 books to each school for their school library. Rep. Cosgrove provided a handout to the Committee that details the cost of school

library books. Dennis Morgan, a District Library Supervisor, gave testimony in support of this appropriation request and stated that school libraries raise students' scores. Marilyn Kofford, Education Commissioner Utah PTA, also spoke in favor of this appropriation and stated that a school library provides a book that can open the world and lives of great people for our children. Sharyl Smith, former Library Supervisor for Granite School District, directed her comments toward the question of substituting the Internet for nonfiction books for children. Ms. Smith stated that most of the information on the Internet is not written on a level that is appropriate for children, there is no editorial board to check the accuracy of the information, and the amount of information on the Internet is overwhelming. She also emphasized the need of continued funding for school libraries and the need of children to use books.

Rep. Morgan addressed the Committee concerning a reduction of classroom size. Rep. Morgan asked for an appropriation to reduce the size of each kindergarten through third grade class to a maximum of 20 students. Rep. Morgan stated that if classroom size were lowered across the State, it would cost \$36,335,440. Sen. Stephenson stated that \$70 million is now appropriated for classroom size reduction. He also voiced his concern that this appropriation be used exclusively to hire teachers and maintain the 20 students per classroom.

Committee Co-Chair Stephenson spoke on a series of language for the statute for the Appropriations Act. The first deals with School Land Trust money and an add-on to this money. This money would reach at-risk students and improve classroom performance. Testimony was given by Paula Plant, USOE School Trustlands Specialist. She stated there is some discrepancy between the numbers appropriated by the Legislature and what is recorded at the State Treasurer's Office. R. Michael Kjar, Fiscal Analyst, will contact the State Treasurer to clarify this discrepancy.

The next issue addressed by Committee Co-Chair Stephenson was Real Property Leases. The language would ensure that payments made by School Districts or Charter Schools for property taxes on leased property would be funded and paid back.

Distribution of money to teachers for classroom supplies and field trips was also discussed. This language would increase the amount of classroom supply money by 50 percent. Committee Co-Chair Stephenson stated that currently there is an appropriation of \$6 million, and this would increase the appropriation to \$9 million.

UBSCT Remediation Language would give a stipend to students who failed to pass the UBSCT Test in the amounts of \$500 to students who are at midpoint and below partial mastery, \$1,000 who are below the partial mastery range but above midpoint of minimal mastery, and \$1,500 for students who are below that level. Committee Co-Chair

Stephenson also stated that this funding should be limited to seniors or those who have finished their junior year and are in the summer before their senior year and continue through their senior year. The focus of the funding will be on students who are at risk of not graduating. Committee Co-Chair Stephenson also commented that the Remediation money would not be paid until the student passes the test.

Sen. Hale spoke on the need for professional development and training for administrators. This training would be an Administrator's Leadership Consortium. Dr. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE, discussed this issue and stated that the training for administrators should be ongoing to keep their skills updated. Dr. Timothy further stated that this Consortium would involve administrator preparation institutions, would involve all 40 School Districts and Charter Schools, and would allow the establishment of an ongoing training program for administrators. Sen. Hale is requesting a one-time appropriation of \$750,000 for a three-year pilot program.

4. Public Comment - The following individuals gave testimony to the Committee:

Robin McClinton	Advocate for Adult Education
Marty Blair	Advocate for Special Education
Marilyn Nuntz	Advocate for Adult Education
Sheila Walsh McDonald	Advocate for Adult Education

5. Committee Business - Committee meetings for next week will be held on Monday and Thursday. A prioritization list has been given to each Committee member for evaluation.

6. Adjourn -

**MOTION:** Rep. Adams moved to adjourn.

Committee Co-Chair Snow adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

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Sen. Howard Stephenson, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Gordon Snow, Committee Co-Chair